



NEWS RELEASE

January 31, 2003

Agents seize 106 Pounds of Marijuana at Checkpoint *Third Load in Two days*

Border Patrol Agents from the Yuma Sector along with U.S. Customs Agents seized 106 pounds of marijuana at the Border Patrol checkpoint on Interstate 8. The seizure was the third in two days and was valued at \$84,560.00.

At 11 a.m., Border Patrol and Customs Agents were working at the checkpoint on Interstate 8. When a 1991 Dodge Caravan pulled up to the point, drug-sniffing dogs immediately alerted to the vehicle. An ensuing search of the vehicle with the dogs disclosed a hidden compartment that contained three bags full of cellophane-wrapped bricks. The contents of the bricks tested positive for marijuana.

The driver, a resident alien male, and the passenger, a U.S. Citizen female, were taken into custody for transporting illegal contraband. Custody of the subjects, the marijuana, and the vehicle was transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This was the third load of marijuana in a 22-hour period for Yuma Sector agents. A total of 221 pounds of marijuana was seized yesterday in two separate incidents.

Since the fiscal year began on Oct. 1, 2002, Yuma agents have been involved in 36 seizures of marijuana for a total value of \$3,01,621.00.

~ USBP ~